REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for total consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 2, 4-13, and 15-22 were pending prior to the Office Action. Claims 23-26 have been added through this Reply. Thus, claims 1, 2, 4-13, and 15-26 are currently pending of which claims 1, 12, 23, and 25 are independent. Claims 1, 4, 12, and 15 have been amended through this Reply. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants thank the Examiner for granting a Personal Interview with the Applicants' representative on May 12, 2008. Applicants further thank the Examiner for granting a subsequent telephone interview with the Applicants' representative on August 6, 2008. During the interviews, the Examiner agreed that an amendment to independent claims 1 and 12 to clarify that the classification is based on folders and sub-folders and that the user input automatically associates an unknown face with a folder that includes a reference model would overcome the outstanding prior art rejection. The Examiner further agreed that the features of selecting a model folder which contains at least one image of object of interest and applying an object recognition algorithm to determine the similarity of isolated objects of interest which are generated from the plurality of digital photos with a reference model in the selected model folder as recited in new independent claims 23 and 25 are distinguishable over the applied prior art references.

AMENDMENT

Although the Applicants' representative did not necessarily agree with the Examiner's contention that further amendment is necessary to distinguish the claimed invention from the applied prior art references, claims 1 and 12 have been amended to recite, *inter alia*, "receiving user input to *__automatically associate__* said *__unknown__* isolated *__faces__* with a particular

7   DRA/AMI/bms

classification, wherein said classification is generated from a category list including a plurality of *__folders each containing a sub-folder__* for an individual member belonging to said particular classification" in order to expedite prosecution. Upon careful review, one would conclude that the amendment made to the claims does not add any new matter to the application. Support for the amendment can be found on paragraphs [0026] and [0027] of the specification.

Furthermore, claims 4 and 15 have been amended merely to address informal issues and to enhance clarity. It is intended that the scope of claims 4 and 15 remain substantially the same.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103

Claims 1, 4-5, 10, 12, 15-16 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Zhang et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0264780)[hereinafter "Zhang"].

Claims 2, 6-8, 13 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Zhang in view of Hanna et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,714,665)[hereinafter "Hanna"]. Claims 9 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Zhang and Hanna as applied to claims 6 and 17 above, and further in view of Mathe (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0060636)[hereinafter "Mathe"]. Claims 11 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatenable over Zhang in view of Neff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,751,780)[hereinafter "Neff"].

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include, *inter alia*, "receiving user input to *__automatically associate__* said *__unknown__* isolated *__faces__* with a particular classification, wherein said classification is generated from a category list including a plurality of *__folders each containing a sub-folder__* for an individual member belonging to said particular classification". As acknowledged by the Examiner during the interviews of May 12, 2008, and August 6, 2008, none of the cited prior art references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the above identified claim feature.

8

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Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 12 are allowable over the applied prior art references. Claims 2, 4-11, 13, and 15-22 are at least allowable by virtue of their dependency on corresponding independent claims.

New Claims

New independent claim 23 recites, *inter alia*, "selecting a model folder which contains at least one image of object of interest; applying an object recognition algorithm to determine the similarity of isolated objects of interest which are generated from the plurality of digital photos with a reference model in the selected model folder." New independent claim 25 recites, *inter alia*, "a selection unit which selects a model folder which contains at least one image of a reference image; a recognition unit for applying an object recognition algorithm to determine the similarity of isolated objects of interest which are generated from the plurality of digital photos with the reference model in the selected model folder." As acknowledged by the Examiner during the interview of August 6, 2008, none of the cited prior art references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the above identified claim feature of claims 23 and 25.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 23 and 25 are allowable over the applied prior art references. Claims 24 and 26 are at least allowable by virtue of their dependency on corresponding independent claims.
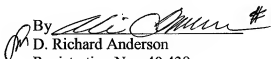
<div align="center">CONCLUSION</div>

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Ali M. Imam Reg. No. 58 755 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 19, 2008   Respectfully submitted,

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